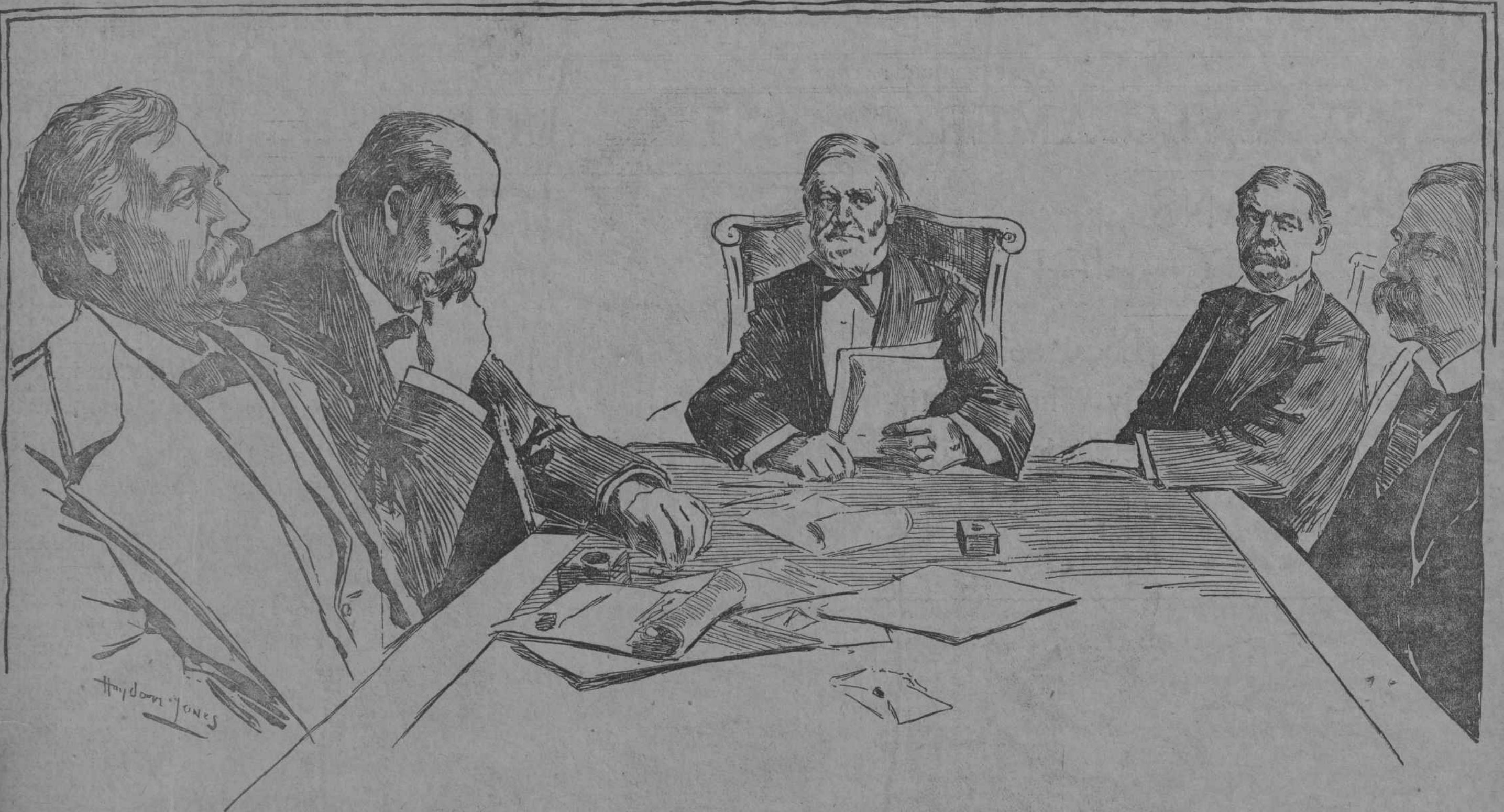


MR. OLNEY DISCUSSING CUBAN RECOGNITION WITH THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS.



SENATOR W. P. FRYE.

SENATOR CUSHMAN K. DAVIS.

SENATOR JOHN SHERMAN.

SECRETARY OLNEY.

SENATOR DON CAMERON.

bell, Spain must consider it as an affront to her honor, and the hot blood of the Spanish don is ever ready to avenge a fancied insult.

Members of the committee have carefully considered the possibility that their action to-day involves, and will be ready to vote for war itself if that be necessary to end the struggle in Cuba.

Consented Secretary Olney.

In accordance with a request of Senator Sherman, Secretary Olney appeared before the committee this morning and discussed the situation for an hour and a half. Every member was present, except Senators Gray and Dingley. Never has there been such a veil of secrecy thrown about the committee as enveloped its proceedings to-day. The statements made by Secretary Olney were considered as of the most confidential character, and every member was pledged to say nothing of what took place behind the closed doors.

Secretary Olney expressed himself as full of sympathy for the Cubans. At the same time he made an elaborate argument before the committee to dissuade members from what he termed precipitate action. He reminded Senators that while their duty lay with their single vote, the responsibility for what might follow would have to be assumed by the administration and the State Department. He did not care now, in the closing days of his public service, to assume that responsibility.

So far as actual information was concerned, there was very little given by the Secretary. He was unable, or failed, to give the committee more than it already knew, for the news in the hands of the State Department had already been privately given to the members of the committee. This consisted of the report of Consul-General Lee and advice from consular agents throughout the island.

Negotiations with Spain.

Negotiations already begun between this Government and Spain looking to the ending of the war, Mr. Olney said, to restrain the committee from taking hasty action. These negotiations would not only be vitiated, he declared, but the incoming administration would be harassed and embarrassed by the passage of the resolution.

When it was intimated to members that these negotiations looked in the direction of some rule for the future, Mr. Olney said that he did not consider the resolution as necessarily leading to war with Spain. It might not even lead to a rupture in the war, Mr. Olney said, to recognize an independent Spain. No such evidence of an independent Spain. No such statement was made, and when the Secretary's attention was called to it by one of the members, Mr. Olney denied it. In fact, no such information had ever been conveyed to him either by the Spanish Minister or by any other person.

Sensational Story Denied.

There appeared this morning a sensational dispatch that Secretary Olney would to-day lay before the committee a statement conveyed to him unofficially by the Spanish Minister to the effect that Russia, France and Holland, through their diplomatic representatives here, would enter a protest if the United States recognized the independence of the island, and would warn this country that their Governments would look upon such an act as an evidence of an independent Spain. No such statement was made, and when the Secretary's attention was called to it by one of the members, Mr. Olney denied it. In fact, no such information had ever been conveyed to him either by the Spanish Minister or by any other person.

While Mr. Olney was present there was a general interchange of views, and that official was easily convinced that all he had said would go for naught. The Cuban spirit predominated. Senator Frye, of Maine, in discussing the matter with Mr. Olney, took the position that nothing ought now to be done, much as he sympathized with the patriots. The department would, he believed, be permitted to conclude the negotiations. Mr. Frye also maintained that the President should be the first to act, that upon him rests the burden of recognizing the new State.

If Mr. Cleveland did not care to assume that responsibility, Mr. Frye believed, the committee should not be asked to open for the new Administration to take up

without any entanglements such as the passage of a resolution was sure to entail. Senator Sherman thought the hour had not yet come when we should interfere, but both Senators acquiesced in the will of the majority, and will support the resolution on the floor of the Senate.

Vote Was Unanimous.

Within five minutes after Mr. Olney retired from the room the vote was taken. His plea did not gain him a single vote. So decided was the sentiment that not even a year and no vote was taken. Mr. Sherman asked the sense of the committee and it was agreed that the Cameron resolution should be reported favorably next Monday, with the change of but a single word. In place of declaring that the United States "should" use its friendly offices to bring the war to a close, it now reads "will."

There was practically no difference of opinion as to the merits of the resolution. Senator Sherman wanted it to go over merely until the Senate was possessed of more light, and Mr. Frye wanted it to be postponed until after the holidays. There was also a difference of views as to whether the action of the committee should be made public to-day or held until the report was made to the Senate. After a short discussion it was agreed that the public should be given the news at once.

The Senator friends of Cuba felt quite jubilant this afternoon. One of them said: "There has never been a time that the Senate did not take prompt action on any given subject when it was thoroughly aroused to the necessity of such action. Our rules never prevent action where it is desired by a majority. The majority has reached the point where it demands that something be done for Cuba, and I believe that we will pass the Cameron resolution speedily. If Mr. Hale antagonizes it with his appropriation bills, or the Spanish with Spain if the Spanish people can control their Government," said Senator Frye, of Maine, speaking of the Cameron resolution. "The Government of Spain will not force a war with this country of its own volition, for it understands very well that it is not equipped for such a proceeding, but there is no telling what the people of that country may do when their impulsive blood is aroused. The Government will doubtless make a superhuman effort to end the war by bringing the insurgents into subjection. War is always a dread thing, and I do not care to see it. Nevertheless, the cruelty of the war now being waged on that island ought to be brought to an end. I am quite confident the resolution will pass the Senate by a very good majority."

Requires President's Approval.

The resolution is a joint one, and requires the approval or disapproval of the President. He must act within ten days after it reaches him, and members of the committee profess to believe that he will act in it.

One Senator, who is very close to the Secretary of State, made the statement this afternoon that the intimation has been given by the "foreign office" by the Government of Great Britain that they would like to see the United States and the Cuban people, being put upon an even footing with Spain, can enter our ports and buy munitions of war. Her louds would be readily purchased by American capital. By this recognition all the sneers of war would be crushed.

Think Spain Will Fight.

Almost every Senator talked with to-day about that he believes Spain will fight if we recognize the independence of her island colony. If she does, there is but one conclusion as to how the end will come. If she does not fight, her career in the Western Hemisphere is brought to an abrupt end, because the Cubans, being put upon an even footing with Spain, can enter our ports and buy munitions of war. Her louds would be readily purchased by American capital. By this recognition all the sneers of war would be crushed.

Hale to Fight Recognition.

Senator Hale would not say that the opponents of the resolution would engage in filibustering, but he intimated that no parliamentary strategy would be neglected to prevent the final vote being taken in the Senate. It is quite evident that Mr. Hale, by means of the absence of rules in the Senate, hopes to prevent any action by having the resolution debated to the death. It is just such a possible contingency that the friends of the resolution have provided against.

One of the members of the committee said this afternoon that if the attempt were made to defeat action in this way, notice would be served upon Mr. Hale, who will be won by a number of the important bills, that he cannot pass one

DOES THE RESOLUTION MEAN WAR WITH SPAIN?

Senators Think Cameron's Proposition May 'Rouse the Dons' Ire.

Prospect of Hostilities, They Declare, Will Not Cause Anyone to Flinch from His Duty.

Mills, of Texas, Would Welcome Combat, and Chandler Says, "Let Warships Be Ready"—Vigorous Language by Mr. Morgan.

Washington, Dec. 18.—"Should this resolution be passed by Congress it means war with Spain if the Spanish people can control their Government," said Senator Frye, of Maine, speaking of the Cameron resolution. "The Government of Spain will not force a war with this country of its own volition, for it understands very well that it is not equipped for such a proceeding, but there is no telling what the people of that country may do when their impulsive blood is aroused. The Government will doubtless make a superhuman effort to end the war by bringing the insurgents into subjection. War is always a dread thing, and I do not care to see it. Nevertheless, the cruelty of the war now being waged on that island ought to be brought to an end. I am quite confident the resolution will pass the Senate by a very good majority."

Adoption of this resolution is a wicked and a bad thing," said Senator Hale, of Maine, one of the most pronounced anti-Cuban men in the Senate. "If it should be adopted by Congress it will certainly lead us into war with Spain. I do not want to see a war, and I do not think a majority of the people of this country desire that such a calamity should come upon the United States. The resolution is being urged by the men who want war, but who evidently do not appreciate the horrors of such a thing and its evil effects on the whole country, even when it is followed by victory. These men also, very likely, are seeking to embarrass the incoming Administration. Of one thing there can be no doubt—the passage of these resolutions will be contested to the end."

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One of the members of the committee said this afternoon that if the attempt were made to defeat action in this way, notice would be served upon Mr. Hale, who will be won by a number of the important bills, that he cannot pass one

of them unless he permits the vote on the Cuban resolution to be taken. The friends of Cuba are in the majority, and it is a noteworthy fact that the Senate has never yet refused to reach a vote on any measure for which there was a majority ready to have a vote taken. Mr. Hale, should he inaugurate a struggle of this kind, will find very little support, and it will not take long for the pro-Spanish element in the Senate to talk itself out of breath.

Mills Doesn't Object to War.

"I do not look upon the resolution as necessarily meaning war," said Senator Mills, of Texas, a member of the committee, "but if it does, I am ready to vote for it just the same. As a matter of fact, I do not think that a little brush with Spain would do us any harm. I should rather like to see it, for in that way we will certainly give the Cubans their liberty and enable them to form their own independent government. I want to see the end of Spanish rule in America. Were Spain to give up Cuba she would still retain Porto Rico, but if she goes to war with the United States we will see that when the end comes both Cuba and Porto Rico have been wrested from her tyrannical grasp. We have the right to recognize any new state we see fit to, and Spain cannot arrogate to herself the privilege of dictating what we shall and shall not do. If she takes affront at this proceeding and commits some act of hostility, I shall feel very sorry for that nation. Cuba must be free, if we have to fight for it, and if it is to be free, I shall welcome it."

Chandler for Recognition.

"The act of the committee is one that carries with it grave possibilities," said Senator Chandler, of New Hampshire, "but I presume the committee has weighed those possibilities very carefully. For one who will be called upon to vote on the resolution, I have carefully considered every phase of the case. I am prepared to support the resolution, let the result be what it may. It does not of necessity mean war, but it may lead to that in the end, if the Spanish Government takes umbrage at what we do. Upon Spain must rest the responsibility for the commencement of hostilities. War will not be of our seeking."

"We have the right to do what we are about to do, and neither Spain nor any other power has the authority to cry us halt. She should have anticipated such action on our part. I expected it when I

first came to Washington in November. I told the Secretary of the Navy that he ought to have his ships in such condition that they could be made available in case they were needed. I suggested to him then that while we were not seeking it, the condition of affairs was such in Cuba that we might be called upon at any time to interfere, and it would be a good thing to have the navy where it could promptly respond to his orders. I do not look for trouble, but it is best to be prepared for it should it come. The resolution, in my judgment, will pass."

"No Telling What Spain Will Do."

"This action to-day is predicated exclusively on the President's message," said Senator Morgan. "We admit the facts as stated by Mr. Cleveland, but some of us have found out, whether he has or not, that there is more government in Cuba than some people would have us believe. While we agree with the President in facts, we differ from him in method and time."

"The passage of the Cameron joint resolution recognizing the independence of Cuba is not a belligerent act. But there is no telling how Spain will take it. She construes everything we do as belligerency, even the reports that we print in our newspapers. Then she takes our people that are in Cuba and starves them, butchers them and destroys their property, and thinks it extremely unkind of us for showing that we have had our feelings hurt. I don't blame Spain, though, for we have submitted so gracefully to everything that she has done in the past that she feels she has perfect license to continue. President Cleveland says we are the most pacific of nations. Surely we are. We proved that by putting about asking those bloody bandits and butchers down there to have a fair fight with insurgents in open field. Spain gives us no satisfaction."

"This resolution projects no belligerency, throws no bombshell at Spain. It kindly invites her to concur in our action, and if she has any good sense left she will do so. This is nothing more than Holland and Spain and France did in recognizing the Confederacy."

America Will Not Flinch.

"Will this call for war? No, we will not call for anything, but if Spain wants to call for war she can and she will get a good share of it up here. Her draft will be honored very promptly. This resolution in recognizing the independence of the Cubans will also grant them belligerent rights. But while we recognize those rights, we are not bound to do more; or to fight any of the Cubans' battles. We can do just as Holland did, and Spain. We will say to Cuba: 'We recognize you as a nation of this earth and you can send a minister over here and we will confer with him. If you fail to establish your independence that will not be our loss.' This resolution includes belligerency as a positive, acknowledged fact, but the independence in reality must be gained later. I believe that Cuba will ultimately win her independence. However, that was not why I voted for the resolution in committee to-day. I voted for it as an act protecting our American people in Cuba."

Will Be Adopted.

"I believe this resolution will be adopted by the Senate and House, and that it will be signed by the President. Then the Cubans can find hospitality in American ports. But so can Spain. If the boats of either nation capture boats belonging to the other, they can bring their prizes to our ports. With us they will enjoy all the rights of a port in a neutral country. By the law of nations we will be forbidden from giving either public assistance. We cannot recruit men and form military or naval parties to participate in favor of either side. But, if we can escape their blockade, we can carry on trade with the islands. The final solution, if the Cameron resolution is adopted, will hinge upon the ground which Spain takes. I believe Cuba will surely win."

CAMERON'S PLEA FOR CUBA'S RECOGNITION.

Vigorous Arguments to Be Submitted to the Senate Next Monday.

He Declares That in Acknowledging the Island's Independence We Follow Well-Established Precedents.

Senator Gave Proofs in a Former Report That Insurgents Are Belligerents and Are Waging a Fairly Successful War.

Washington, Dec. 18.—The report which Mr. Cameron will submit to the Senate Monday with his resolution recognizing Cuba's independence is elaborate, and goes into the diplomatic history of the subject of the recognition of new States in extenso. It is said by those Senators who have been permitted to read it that it is one of the most comprehensive papers on the subject that has yet been written, and shows conclusively that this Government, in recognizing the Republic of Cuba, is but following in the footsteps of well-established precedent.

Mr. Cameron begins with the Creek rebellion and carries the history through each succeeding disturbance, showing in each case what the United States has done and what results have arisen therefrom. He shows that in numerous instances we have recognized new States that had no seat of government, no seaport town, and were as embryonic in their condition as this Republic of Cuba is alleged to be. Especially is this shown to be the case with respect to our recognition of the Argentine Republic, Chili and Columbia.

Mr. Cameron takes the most pronounced position on the authority of Congress to act on such a question, and denies that it is a function belonging entirely to the Chief Executive. He is indorsed in this view by citations from Presidential messages, although the question as to whether the Executive or the legislative shall assume this power has never been decided in this country.

Never Before at Variance.

"This is due to the unique fact that never until now have the Executive and the legislative branch of the Government been at variance on so grave a public question."

On the 22d of December, 1838, Jackson sent to Congress a message on our relations with the State of Texas, then struggling to throw off the yoke of Mexico. In it that old Democrat makes the following statement:

No deliberate inquiry has ever been instituted in Congress, or in any of our legislative bodies, as to whom belonged the power of originally recognizing a new State—a power the exercise of which is equivalent, under some circumstances, to a declaration of war, a power nowhere expressly delegated, and only granted in some of the great powers given to Congress. In the preamble to the resolution of the House of

Representatives it is distinctly intimated that the expediency of recognizing the independence of Texas should be left to the decision of Congress. In this view, on the ground of expediency, I am disposed to concur, and do not, therefore, consider it necessary to express an opinion as to the strict constitutional right of the Executive, either apart from or in conjunction with the Senate, over the subject.

It is to be presumed that on no future occasion will a dispute arise, as none has heretofore occurred, between the Executive and legislative in the exercise of the power of recognition. It will always be consistent

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